

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-37 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner finds claim 1-13 and 36 allowable.

The examiner rejects claims 26-28 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (U.S. Patent 6,056,408).

The examiner rejects claims 14-19 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Deering (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0008697).

The examiner rejects claims 20-25 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of West (U.S. Patent 6,339,434).

The examiner rejects claims 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of West as applied to claims 20-28 and 32-34 above, and further in view of Deering.

The applicants amend claims 14, 20, 21, 26, 29, and 35. The application remains with claims 1-37 after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants thank examiner Cruz for allowing claims 1-13 and 36. The applicants amend the rejected claims to include limitations from allowed claims. Specifically, the applicants amend rejected independent claims 14, 21, 26, and 29 to include all limitations from allowed claim 1. The applicants also amend rejected independent claim 20 to include all limitations from allowed claim 8 and amend rejected independent claim 35 to depend from allowed claim 1. The application now includes allowable subject matter only.

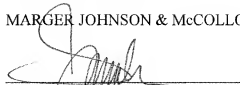
Conclusion

The applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Customer No. 20575

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Graciela G. Cowger', is written over a horizontal line.

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